

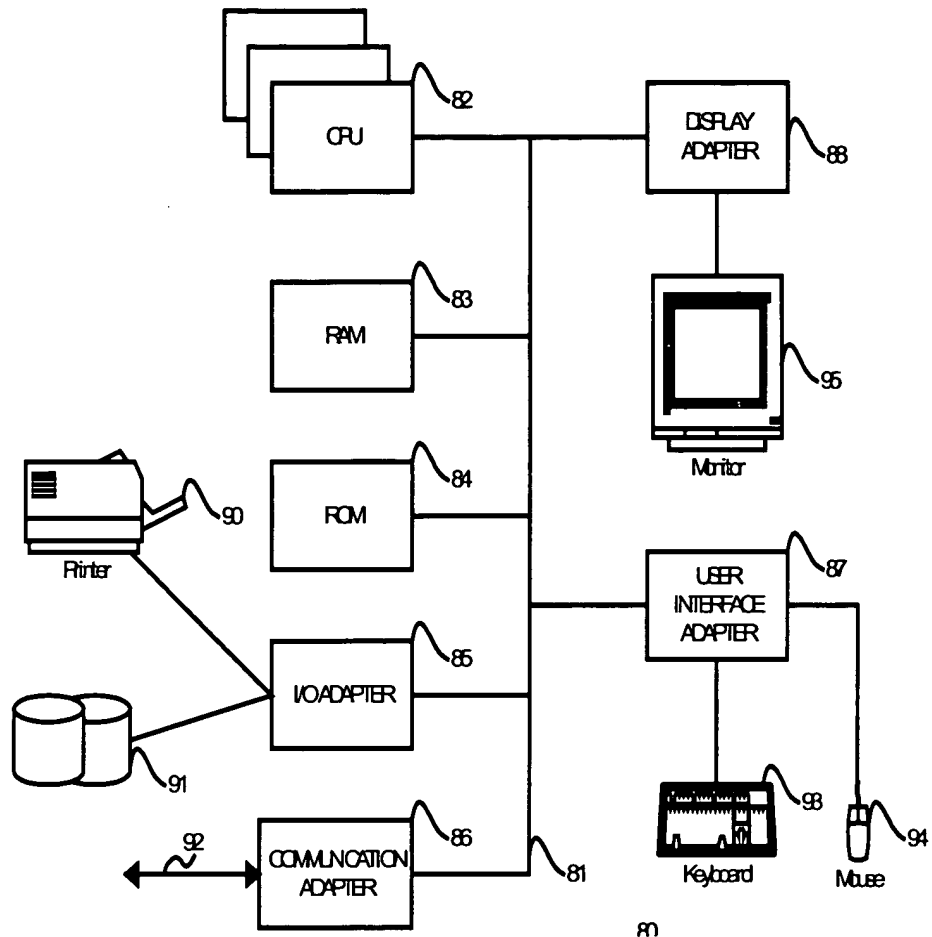
(PRIOR ART)

FIG. 1A

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FIG. 1A is a schematic diagram of a network topology. The network consists of five main nodes (20, 30, 40, 50, 60) and a seventh node (70) at the top. Each main node is connected to several peripheral devices, represented by computer icons. Node 20 is connected to 21, 22, 23, and 51. Node 30 is connected to 31, 32, 33, 34, and 41. Node 40 is connected to 42, 43, 44, and 41. Node 50 is connected to 52, 53, 51, and 61. Node 60 is connected to 61, 62, 63, and 64. Node 70 is connected to 71, 72, 73, and 74. The diagram is labeled with a reference numeral 10 in the upper right corner.



(PRIOR ART)  
FIG. 1B

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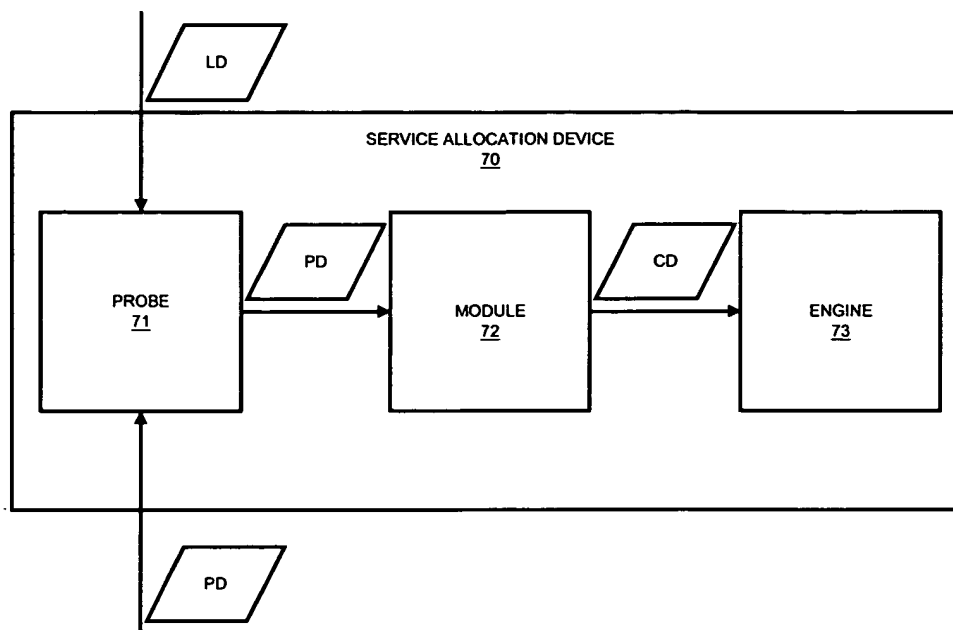


FIG. 2A  
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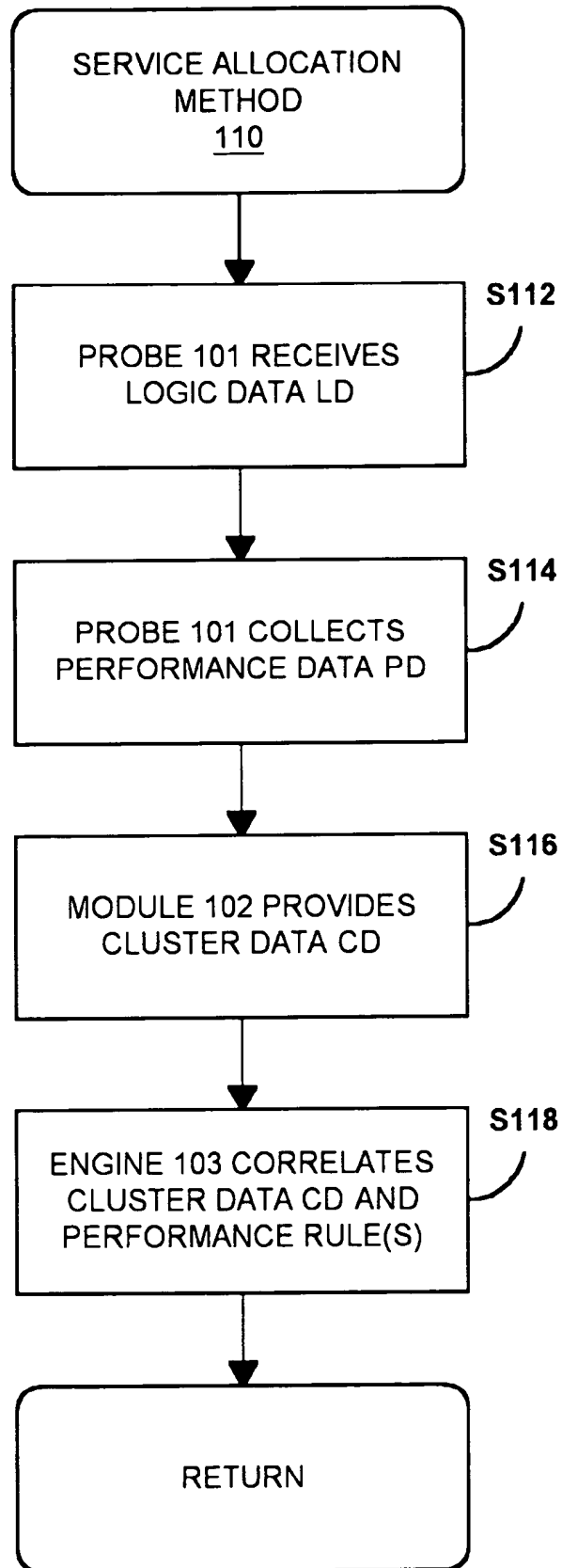


FIG. 2B  
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NC1

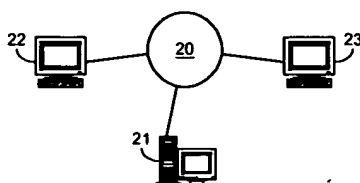


FIG. 3A  
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NC2

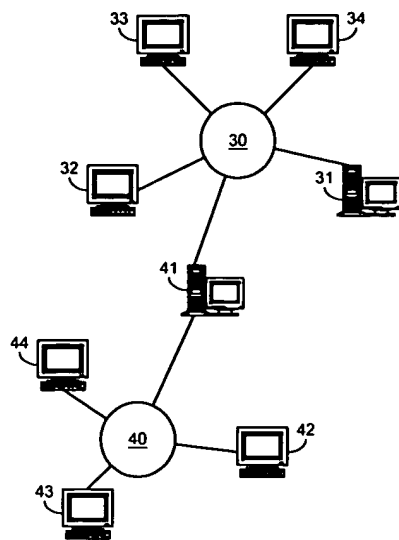


FIG. 3B

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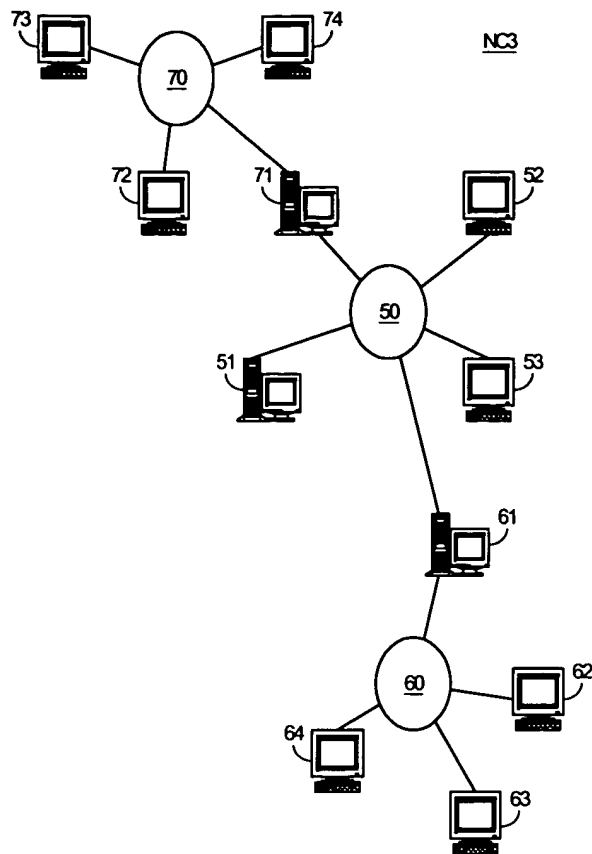


FIG. 3C  
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